

~The Grand Cal Task Force~

Twenty Five Years of Grand Calumet River and Community Advocacy



History of The Grand Cal Task Force

by Lee Botts

The first major effort to clean up the pollution in the area was the Calumet Enforcement Conference, mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1965. The law called for enforcement conferences for major water bodies to help achieve clean water standards. In addition to a Lake Michigan Enforcement Conference, a special Calumet conference was created because most of the lake's pollution came from the concentration of industry at its southern tip.

In 1973, the Environmental Committee of Steelworkers Local 1010, which represented workers at Inland Steel, contacted Lee Botts, executive director of the Lake Michigan Federation (LMF), an environmental group. The steelworkers wanted help in cleaning up the pollution in the Grand Calumet River and Indiana Harbor Ship Canal. Local 1010 joined LMF, and over the next few years the staff worked with Local members and Calumet area residents on pollution issues.

In 1981 LMF hired David Fogarty to organize local residents, who formed the Grand Cal Task Force. Among the founders were Anne Anderson, Howard Anderson, John Beckman and Nancy Kelly. LMF also obtained funding to work with river community residents to develop a master plan for restoring the Grand Cal, which drew the support of the U.S. EPA.

The master plan and the community organizing experience that gave birth to the Task Force gave the International Joint Commission (IJC) the idea of asking for Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for places where the objectives of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the U.S. and Canada were not being achieved. First called "problem areas," they came to be called Areas of Concern (AOC). The commissioners knew that cleaning these areas would require the involvement of local people and local governments. When they heard about what was happening in the Calumet region and saw the master plan, they thought the same kind of thing ought to happen in all the other Areas of Concern. In 1987 the Agreement was amended to call for RAPs in all 43 AOCs in the Great Lakes basin.



Lee Botts presents Dr. Mark Reskin with the Grand Cal Task Force Environmental Education Award at the group's 10th Anniversary Annual Dinner.



Original board members Howard Anderson, John Beckman, Nancy Kelly and Anne Anderson reminisce about Task Force beginnings. Jacqueline Mayo (background), dinner committee chair, emceed the event.

In 1986, the Grand Cal Task Force became an independent, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. It and the people of Northwest Indiana have been working ever since to clean up the river and the

surrounding area. Today, the Grand Cal River is still not clean, but it is much improved. Thousands of area residents are now aware of the river's problems and are committed to restoring it.

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From the very beginning, the Grand Cal Task Force was organized as a diverse community-based organization with Board and member representation from organizations and residents of the communities through which the Grand Calumet River flowed.



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What Is The Grand Cal Task Force?

The organization bringing you this newsletter is a group of Northwest Indiana residents who think that the Grand Calumet River has been neglected and dumped upon for too long. We believe that the Grand Cal and its wetlands are a valuable resource to the Region.

Our group was organized by the Lake Michigan Federation in October of 1981. It began with an all-day workshop to acquaint Northwest Indiana citizens with the history, sociology, and contamination of the river. At the end of that session, many of us lingered to

discuss the question: "Now what do we DO about this?" and the Grand Cal Task Force was formed.

The Task Force has worked for the last three years to create public awareness of the Grand Cal's problems and potential. We have held river festivals, presented slide shows, constructed a traveling display, taken canoe tours, and testified at hearings. In November of 1983, Task Force members addressed the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes. We asked for and received U.S./Canadian attention and commitment to the Grand Calumet River.



ABOVE: In front of a pile of burnt tires, Lorraine Task, President of the Grand Cal Task Force and East Chicago resident, stands with her community to demand removal of the tons of burnt tire shreds remaining after the 1994 fire.

BELOW: Gary residents speak out against the J-Pit and demand environmental justice during the 1995 Toxic Tour.



THE GRAND CALUMET TASK FORCE

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Whiting, Indiana 46394
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Mission Statement

The Grand Calumet Task Force is a grass roots organization dedicated to working cooperatively to improve the water quality and ecosystems of the Grand Calumet River and its surrounding areas.

Our goals are:

1. To promote reclamation of the Grand Calumet River basin, including the adjacent wetlands and near shore Lake Michigan, to support clean-water uses.
2. To educate the community about the problems and potential of the Grand Calumet River/Lake Michigan.
3. To promote and effect citizen involvement in all aspects of reclamation.
4. To promote environmentally-sound jobs and diverse economic development which successfully integrates the Calumet Region's goals for a strong economy and a clean and healthy environment.
5. To act as a catalyst for concerned citizens, organizations businesses and governments to come together in dialogue and cooperative efforts to achieve our common goals regarding uses of the Grand Calumet River/Lake Michigan.



A key event for the Task Force was the biennial meeting of the International Joint Commission for the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in November of 1983 in Indianapolis.

Task Force members attended the meeting and advocated for river clean-up and protection of community health.

The IJC was impressed with the knowledge and commitment of the community members and steel industry union representatives that attended the meeting in Indianapolis. This experience initiated the call by the IJC for the development of Remedial Action Plans for the designated Areas of Concern that included the requirement for citizen involvement.

The master plan and the community organizing experience that gave birth to the Task Force gave the International Joint Commission (IJC) the idea of asking for Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for places where the objectives of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the U.S. and Canada were not being achieved. First called "problem areas," they came to be called Areas of Concern (AOC). The commissioners knew that cleaning these areas would require the involvement of local people and local governments. When they heard about what was happening in the Calumet region and saw the master plan, they thought the same kind of thing ought to happen in all the other Areas of Concern. In 1987 the Agreement was amended to call for RAPs in all 43 AOCs in the Great Lakes basin.

The Task Force Board of Directors and members began organizing community meetings to talk about the pollution problems of the river and the impact on Lake Michigan water quality and the health and viability of the river communities.



SECOND ANNUAL GRAND CALUMET RIVER CANOE TRIP. Join us on October 20 for a day on the river, and see how one of America's most heavily industrialized waterways can also be an urban recreational resource. Sponsored by the Grand Cal Task Force, the canoe trip will be an all morning and early afternoon affair, starting at Buchanan Street in Gary and winding up in Hammond. Along the way we'll see riverline wetlands and dune and swale communities that are habitat for a surprising variety of wildlife including Great Blue Herons, yellow warblers and mallard. We might even see a raccoon, painted turtle or Red Fox. Reservations will be taken first come, first served. Call 933-7377 to reserve your place. Free.

But the Task Force also held fun and educational events on the river, community clean ups, and river festivals at local parks.

Protest marches were organized to call attention to local environmental concerns.

GRAND CAL CURRENTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRAND CALUMET TASK FORCE

Spring/Summer 1997

Neighbors Say "No"!

Rhone-Poulenc Release Renews Public Outcry to Deny EPA Hazardous Waste Permit

A mysterious release at Hammond's Rhone-Poulenc sulfuric acid recycler Feb. 20 has renewed public demands that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deny the company's application for a final permit to burn hazardous wastes.

In response to the accident, the city councils of Hammond and East Chicago have unanimously passed identical resolutions asking the EPA to deny the facility's application for a so-called "Part B permit" under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976.

More than 1,200 pounds of chemicals were vented to the air during the release, which company officials blamed on a human error that allowed too much steam into a 55,000-gallon hazardous waste blending tank.

The company has tried to downplay the accident, claiming that harmful levels of released chemicals did not leave the plant property, but the inability of company officials to explain to emergency responders what was happening at the time of the accident led to a series of precautions that highlight the potential for calamity at the plant.



Living across the street from a hazardous waste incinerator is too close for comfort.

State police closed the Indiana Toll Road between Calumet and Cline avenues through the evening rush hours. South Shore rail commuters were even more inconvenienced, especially those parked at the East Chicago station, which is across the street from Rhone-Poulenc. Trains were halted for several hours, then allowed to proceed through the area without stopping at the station.

Residents of East Chicago and Whit-

ing received emergency-alert phone calls telling them to stay in their homes. Not until around 10:30 p.m. were some informed that they could go outside. However, some Hammond residents who live close to the plant

Continued on page 3

Gary Garbage
Woes p. 4

Lois Gibbs Speaks at Task Force Annual Meeting

IS NORTHWEST INDIANA ANOTHER LOVE CANAL?

most deadly chemicals to the people at Love Canal, be seen or smelled. sible, said Lois Marie Airport on May 28, people in the Niagara sion never even knew so, she warned, even Indiana doesn't nec- as where oily black bubbling up out of the necessarily mean that potentially face many environmental problems Love Canal.



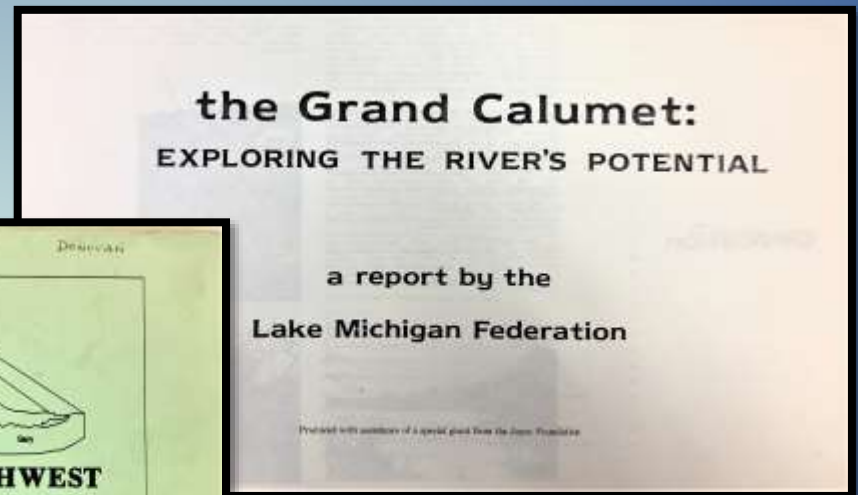
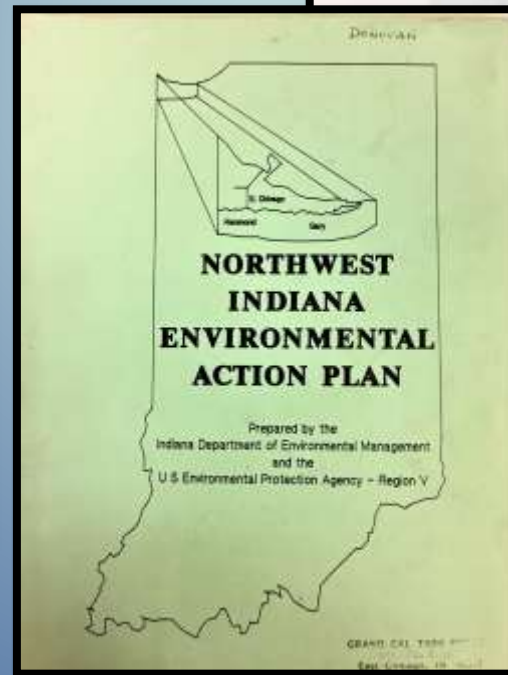
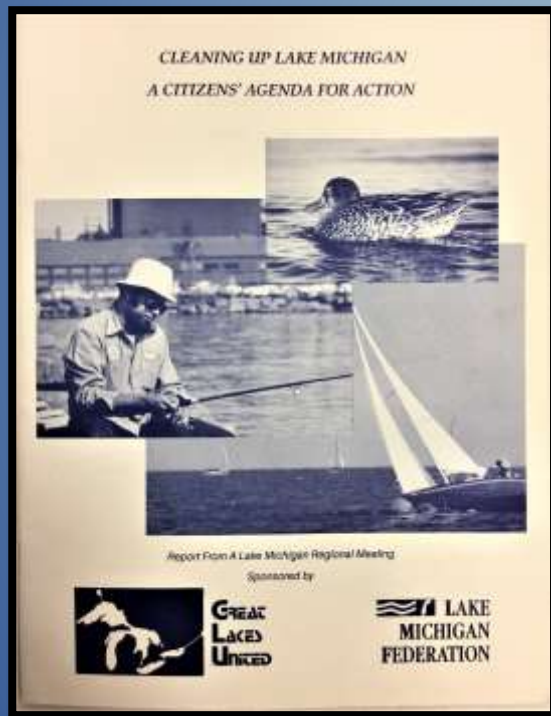
Lois Gibbs, executive director of the Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes and a leader of the fight at Love Canal, addresses the Grand Cal Task Force's annual membership meeting at the Gary Airport in Gary on May 28, 1987.

BUSLOAD FROM N.W. INDIANA MAKES VIEWS KNOWN

The Grand Cal Task Force organized a bus load of N.W. Indiana residents to travel to Indianapolis for the December 13, 1989 meeting of the Water Pollution Control Board. Our purpose was to support adoption of the new proposed Water Quality Standards. High School students, union representatives, environmental activists, and retired refinery workers spoke in favor of the new standards. N.W. Indiana spoke up loud and clear for CLEAN WATER!



The Task Force and the Lake Michigan Federation organized opportunities for community engagement and comment on the initial EPA and IDEM plans to address the multi-media pollution problems of the Grand Calumet River and adjacent land uses. The Lake Michigan Federation and the Grand Cal Task Force developed a community based plan of action for clean-up and future uses of the river.



The Task Force began working with other Great Lakes organizations such as Great Lakes United.

The Task Force incorporated as an independent 501- c - 3 organization in 1984 and began applying for and receiving grant funding for operations and projects.

GRAND CAL CURRENTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRAND CALUMET RIVER TASK FORCE
Summer, 1986

GRAND CAL TASK FORCE RIVERWATCH

Citizens' River-monitoring Project Yields Promising Results

People driving by the Grand Calumet River on Saturday mornings this summer were often greeted by the sight of members of the Grand Cal Task Force and volunteers from the community here. They were taking water samples from the river with test tubes in hand. What they were observing was RIVERWATCH in action, the Task Force's citizens' river-monitoring program. Starting on June 21, and for five additional Saturdays through July and August, RIVERWATCH volunteers visited a total of eight sites along the river and the Indiana Harbor Canal. Some of the sites included Marquette Park Lagoon, 2nd Avenue and Polk Street, and Industrial Highway in Gary, Chicago Avenue and the Canal, and Rosaura Pond in East Chicago, and Hoffman Avenue in Hammond.

Aided by an Expert
The RIVERWATCH project was especially fortunate in having Eugene Faxon II as our technical advisor throughout the project. Gene, who works for American Water Co., is a professional chemist and also heads up his own consulting firm, Aquatic Science Enterprises. Under Gene's able guidance, volunteers made careful observations of each of the sites sampled. At Marquette Park Lagoon, for example, Gene pointed out a variety of insects and plant life inhabiting the lagoon, and this helped the volunteers to draw a more complete picture of the water quality.

Results to be Analyzed
Although the results of the testing are still being analyzed to get an overall view of the project, some of the initial findings were of great interest. While there were no major surprises, the extremely high concentrations of ammonia in the Hammond branch of the river reaffirmed the



need for greater improvements in municipal sewage treatment. And while the pH readings at most sites were relatively within normal limits, the low saturations of dissolved oxygen also brought into focus just how far we have to go in our goal of making the river fishable and swimmable someday.

Just the First Step
The summer RIVERWATCH project was just the first in what the Grand Cal Task Force hopes will be a continuously developing series of programs involving citizens in monitoring the Grand Calumet River. Our experience over the years has

shown that community participation and input are major factors in the effort to clean up the river. The Grand Cal River needs YOUR help, and working together, all of us can make the difference!

Reclaim the Grand Cal River!

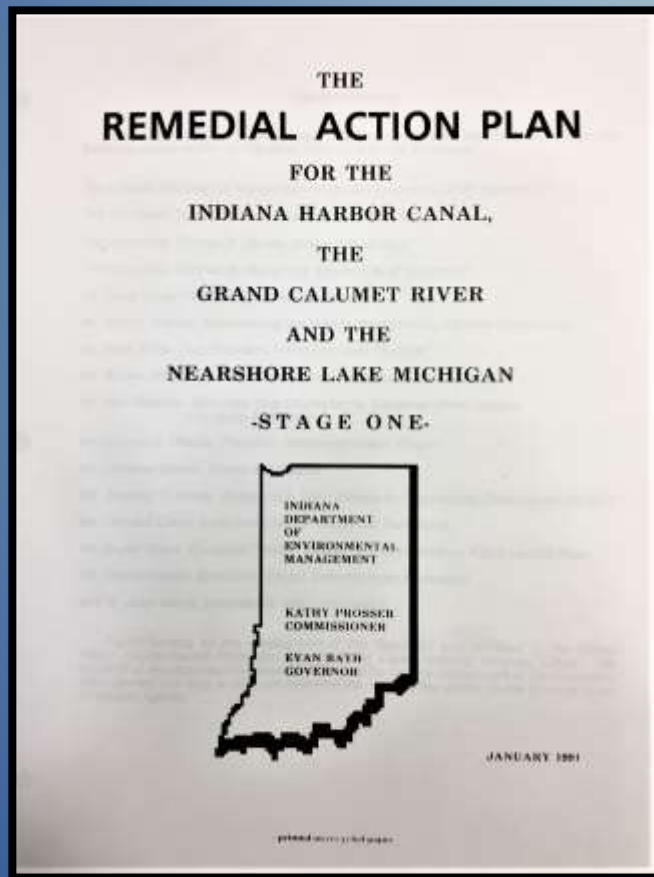
Join the
Grand Cal Task Force!

BILL MILLER, a RIVERWATCH volunteer who lives in Hammond and works at Island Steel, is here at work, analyzing a water sample from the Grand Cal River at Hoffman Avenue as part of the RIVERWATCH project. Safety equipment for the project, including the glasses and gloves Bill is wearing, were donated to the Task Force by AMCO of Whiting, IN, and Physicare Supply Co. of Muncie.

The Task Force hired its first staff person and embarked on a grant funded Riverwatch project to train local residents to conduct water quality monitoring on the Grand Calumet River.

Staff and board members began publishing a regular newsletter and recruiting new members to join the Task Force as volunteers and supporters.

When the IDEM was created in 1986 and took on the responsibility of developing the Remedial Action Plan for the Grand Calumet River/Indiana Ship Canal, the Grand Cal Task Force was appointed a member of the first Citizen's Advisory Committee, which was later restructured as the CARE Committee.



While continuing work to involve local organizations and residents in the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) process and other regional environmental issues, the Task Force joined with NW Indiana environmental groups , such as Save the Dunes, to successfully advocate for the establishment of a NW Indiana Regional IDEM office in Gary and for the first RAP Coordinator to be stationed in that office

The Task Force worked closely with other NW Indiana environmental, natural resource, and fishing and hunting advocacy groups such as the Save the Dunes, the Izaak Walton League, and the Lake Co. Fish and Game Protective Association to defeat a Corps of Engineers proposal to site a CDF in Lake Michigan to dispose of the contaminated sediments from the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal.

TOXIC ISLAND DEFEATED

Corps Withdraws Proposal for CDF in Lake Michigan

Community and environmental groups in Northwest Indiana have scored a major victory with the decision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to abandon plans to build a "contained disposal facility" (ICDF) in Lake Michigan off Jeorse Park, East Chicago. Better known as "toxic island", the proposed facility was to be a 43-acre landfill built with highly polluted dredgings from the Indiana Harbor Canal (IHC) and was opposed by environmentalists from its inception.

Although the Corps succeeded in persuading the Lake County Board of Commissioners to sponsor the project, citizens in Northwest Indiana never supported it. Through public testimony, written comments, and over 30,000 signatures on petitions, opposition to the plan was presented both to the Corps and the commissioners. In addition, comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from virtually every public agency involved all rejected the CDF as unacceptable, and by July it became clear to all that plans for a Jeorse Park CDF had been defeated.

New Site Proposed


Still on the agenda, however, are the plans to dredge the IHC, and still unanswered is the pivotal question of what to do with the dredge spoils. The latest proposal from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is that the Inland Steel landfill - unequivocally rejected in the draft EIS - be reconsidered as the "optimum site" to contain the dredgings. At a recent meeting in E. Chicago, however, between members of the Northwest Indiana Coal-

ition for the Environment (N.I.C.E.) including the Grand Cal Task Force, IDEM, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, major reservations to the Inland site were expressed.

One of the main concerns raised was that, once again, options for treatment of the dredge spoils as an alternative to burying or containing them were not seriously considered by either the Corps or the State in making the recommendation for the new site. There are also serious questions regarding the current condition of the site and what is already in it. Members of both community and environmental groups also expressed strongly the necessity of having the State as a co-sponsor for any dredging and disposal project. Responding to these concerns,

and to continuing criticism about the process by which the choice for the new site was made, IDEM Deputy Commissioner Wagener announced that he would be forming a task force as an advisory body to the DEM this fall. This task force would include representatives from the community, unions, and environmental organizations along with industry and local government.

Defeat of the Jeorse Park CDF is a victory the entire community can be proud of, but it doesn't mean we can now rest on our laurels. Continued vigilance will be necessary to see that any project which is finally approved is in the best interests of those who will be most affected by it - the people of Northwest Indiana.



The map shows Lake Michigan with the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal (IHC) extending from the south. A proposed 'TOXIC ISLAND' is marked with a black triangle in the lake. Other features include the 'Hammond Water Intake' (black circle), 'East Chicago Water Intake' (black circle), and the 'INLAND STEEL LANDFILL' (black area on the shore). The map is titled 'Map of proposed island for Indiana Harbor spoils'.

Thousands of signatures were gathered in a door to door campaign to stop the "Toxic Island". This widely publicized effort brought additional attention to the problems of the Grand Calumet River and Ship Canal and involved many more individuals and groups in the public outcry to clean up the waterways.

Adopt a River Project

As part of a surface water runoff pollution prevention and public education

project funded by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the Grand Cal Task Force has begun an ADOPT A RIVER program on the Grand Calumet River. Participants adopt a section of the Grand Calumet River and have at least one work day a year on that section of the river to pick up debris that can add to water pollution. Adopt a River participants also receive information about how to prevent and reduce use and water contamination from hazardous chemicals used in the home and garden.

Schools, groups, and individuals interested in the Adopt A River program, call the Grand Cal Task Force office

THE COMMON SENSE INITIATIVE

Finding new and improved ways for the interested public to become involved in environmental information-sharing and decision-making is a priority for environmental and community groups participating in the EPA's Common Sense Initiative. Several industry sectors are working on projects that include public involvement up front and throughout the process, rather than at the end as is presently the case in most states.



Adopt-A-River volunteers gather for a clean up and river education day along the Grand Calumet River in Hammond.

Over 200 "Sweep" Indiana Beaches

The Grand Cal Task Force and the Hoosier Environmental Council (Hoosier Environmental Council) coordinated the Lake Michigan Beach Sweep for the State of Indiana this year. Over 200 enthusiastic beach sweepers from grade schoolers to grandparents turned out to don gloves and patrol the beaches with garbage bags and data sheets.

Each place of beach debris gathered was classified, counted and recorded by the Beach Sweep volunteers. Data tallied, this data will help identify the types of solid debris that pollute the Grand Calumet waters and determine and provide an available foundation to pursue prevention solutions.

This annual event is part of the Great Lakes Beach Sweep organized by the Center for Marine Conservation, a Washington, D.C. based environmental research center. This two-day clean-up campaign was founded in 1988 to clean up and protect the world's water and coasts.

The reason the Grand Cal Task Force helps to coordinate this event is not just to give the beaches a one-day cleaning, it gives a snapshot in time of what washes up daily on area beaches and makes area residents more aware of what kind of litter and even animal wastes end up in our recreational and drinking water.

The ANSCO Oil Refinery in Whiting was a sponsor of the Beach Sweep again this year, organizing plant employees to



Top and bottom: Volunteers sweep the beach at Hammond Marine Center. Kids love clean up the beach and taking out a big paper advertisement for the Beach Sweep is a local newspaper. Many people, in Whiting, Ohio, had also joined the Beach Sweep for the past few years by donating along with gloves and garbage bags. Volunteers

will all receive a complimentary t-shirt this year due to funding assistance from the ANSCO Foundation in Chicago, IL. Call Helen Calkins at the Grand Cal Task Force if you want to be counted for the Beach Sweep next year.



Top Five Garbage Items 1995 Indiana Lake Michigan Beach Sweep

1. Cigarette Butts - 10,536
2. Plastic Soft Gas Cans - 3,887
3. Plastic Pines - 3,145
4. Glass pieces - 875
5. Straws - 688

GARY YOUTH CLEAN UP GRAND CAL RIVERBANK



Summer of '96 and all work Grand Cal Riverbank, county job project, the first weeds 11/2 miles to Streets, the entire path and built by program was who un-Calumet by the side. Local help the wood the ideal and, who much were in as trash



Youngsters who worked on the Grand Calumet Development Project show off certificate of appreciation presented to them by the Grand Cal Task Force on August 15. The youngsters are thanked on the left by Ben Raymond, Jr. of the Grand Cal Task Force, and on the right by Tree Savers. Certificates were also presented to Mr. Les Combs of NIPSCO and Mr. Tarek Arshad of the Gary Planning Dept.

GRAND CAL CURRENTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRAND CALUMET TASK FORCE
WINTER 1992

RIVER COMMUNITY SPEAKS OUT FOR A CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

On Saturday, October 24, 1991, The Grand Cal Task Force, American/Manitowish Community Project held a community meeting for neighborhood pride and a clean and safe environment. The speaker was held on the banks of the Grand Calumet River as a future lakefront park. This structured park has become a shining place for illegal activities, such as smoking and drug dealing.

The Grand Cal Task Force and the residents of Gary who live on the Grand Calumet River announced a plan to build the riverbank's community to improve this neighborhood park and ensure it is a place as a center of neighborhood activities. It requires the community to open up about the dangers of the Grand Calumet River and the need to clean and restore the River; or else plan to construct an environmental education shelter at the park site. This shelter will contain information on the safety environment of Northwest Indiana and the Grand Calumet River. We hope this park will not only become a focal point for neighborhood recreation and environmental education but also a local source of environmental information and activities for both residents and visitors.



Grand Calumet Community Steering Committee (CSP) members examine the River Project.



Children get to know the river water.

As part of our River Project for community empowerment, a workshop at the Grand Cal Task Force in Gary, Indiana, on November 12 will focus on organizing residents for community control over environmental problems and the need to look up the safety and health concerns of plant residents and community residents. We welcome volunteers and those for our River Community Project. Contact the Grand Cal Task Force at 473-0240.

SATURDAY, OCT. 27, 1990
GRAND CAL RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP - GARY, IN.
2nd. POLK - 2nd. GRANT
(EAST AND WEST OF BUCHANAN OFF TOLLROAD EXIT)
8 A.M. - 12 NOON
COME HELP CLEAN ALONG
2nd. AVE. - PLANT SHRUBS AND FLOWERS, BRING SHOVEL, RAKE AND WEAR GLOVES. GARY GENERAL SERVICES WILL BE THERE TO ASSIST. (REFRESHMENTS AT NOON - CANCEL IF RAIN)

SPONSORS:
HORACE MANN AMBRIDGE BLOCK CLUBS
2nd. DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
CITY OF GARY GENERAL SERVICES
GRAND CAL TASK FORCE



The public questions Du Pont at the March 28 meeting.



Problem solving at the Jobs/Environment Workshop at OCAW 7-1 in Whiting, 1994.

GRAND CAL CURRENTS



NEWSLETTER OF THE GRAND CALUMET TASK FORCE
SPRING 1990

DU PONT CHEMICAL DUMPS UNCOVERED BY TASK FORCE

In late February of 1990 the Grand Calumet Task Force made public the existence of previously unreported chemical dump sites on the property of E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Co. on Kennedy Ave. in East Chicago, In. By Du Pont's admission in their "Executive Summary" of a detailed study by CH2M HILL, "The hydrogeology of the plant site is very unfavorable for waste disposal. The site is directly underlain by highly permeable materials (fine sands) that constitute a productive, regionally significant aquifer."

Studies indicate that the likely direction of groundwater from the Du Pont site is toward the Grand Calumet River. The river forms the southern border of the plant property. Members of the Grand Cal Task Force became concerned about the Du Pont plant last summer on the annual canoe trip. Dead vegetation was observed on both sides of the river adjacent to the plant. (see GRAND CAL CURRENTS, Fall 1989)

IDEM Investigates

IDEM was informed of the problem and began an investigation. When the results of this preliminary investigation were entered into the public file at IDEM in Indianapolis, the Task Force got copies of the Du Pont Executive Summary and subsequently made the information public through the press and through environmental organizations in N.W. Indiana.



"DEAD ZONE" across from Du Pont property examined by canoeists during June 1989 river trip.

Known Contamination

As the Task Force and local newspapers researched Du Pont history, it became clear that as far back as 1979 Du Pont was aware that the groundwater beneath their plant was contaminated. It was determined that unexplained levels of arsenic, iron, and zinc found entering the East Chicago Sanitary system were infiltrating from groundwater at the Du Pont site. The East Chicago Sanitary sewers were ordered to stop the infiltration.

Some time in 1982 the State of Indiana scored the site for superfund status but determined that no drinking water wells were affected by contaminated groundwater. The site was not added to the superfund list. Our

question is whether adequate testing was done in 1982 when, presumably, the location and hazardous nature of many dump sites were not yet known.

In 1983 EPA did groundwater sampling at Du Pont and found high levels of arsenic and iron. The investigation seemed to have stalled at that point. Du Pont began its own study of waste sites on their property in 1986.

Although every chemical produced and every process performed for the last one hundred years at Du Pont seems to have leaked, spilled, or have been buried at the plant site, there is no suggestion in Du Pont's report of the quantities and/or concentrations of chemicals in the 36 identified sites.

continued on page 2



Many people attended Grand Cal Task Force's 1994 Annual Meeting.





Participants get ready for the 1994 Environmental Awareness Toxic Tour.

1996 Toxic Tour Visits Natural

The threat of toxic waste has been leading a toxic tour of the Lake County area. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.

This year we changed the theme to a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.

Many natural resources

the world's most spectacular resources of these undeveloped resources, which make this one of the most beautiful regions in the country. We began and ended the tour at the Lake County Courthouse in Gary, Indiana. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.

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Chick and Vice Mayor, President, and Clerk of the Board. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.



Toxic Tour participants enjoy the beauty of Greater Gary and Gary, IN.

rest purchased with money paid to the government of the United States. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.

Waste also includes toxic waste. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.

Treasures and Toxic Threats

A Part 1 of the Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.

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At 10:00 AM, the tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.

Auto Club is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.

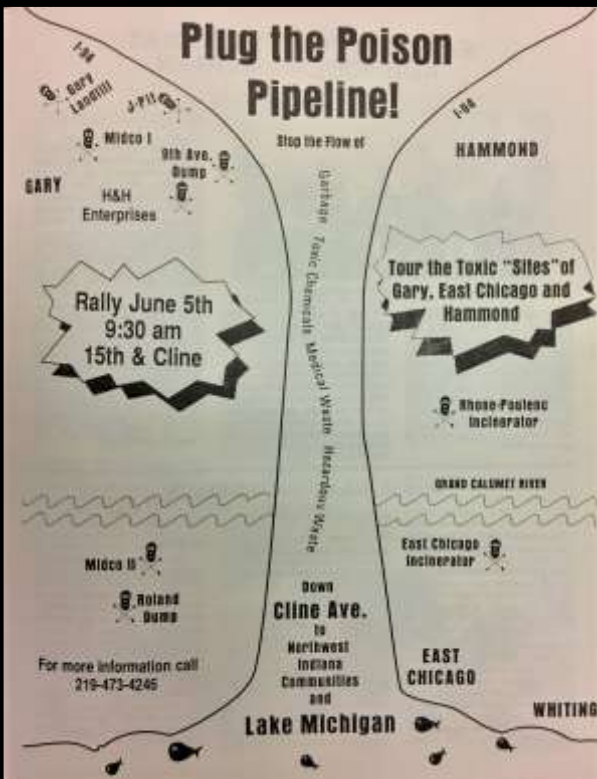


"No-TOX" SOLIDARITY

"No-TOX" SOLIDARITY is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.

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Auto Club is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called. The tour is a "Toxic Threats and Natural Treasures Tour" as it is called.



What they are NOT willing to live with

Continued on page 6

Public Needs To Be Heard On Ship Canal Cleanup

This article is reprinted from The Times Tribune Editorial Advisory Board Column

By Dennis Carey, Executive Director

The Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency will present a public hearing on the spring of this year on the proposed cleanup of the ship canal at Environmental Impact Statement with recommendations for the design and disposal of the sediment and debris that have accumulated beneath the water of the ship canal at Lake Michigan.

It is through the ship canal that the Grand Calumet River carries its load of sediment and debris to the Lake Michigan. The Corps of Engineers has always been responsible for maintaining the ship canal and its port facilities. The Corps has always been responsible for the dredging and disposal of the sediment and debris that have accumulated beneath the water of the ship canal at Lake Michigan.

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Refinery Communities Form National Network

This article is reprinted from The Times Tribune Editorial Advisory Board Column

By Dennis Carey, Executive Director

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Refining communities formed a national network to coordinate efforts to clean up the Grand Calumet River.

Public Demands More Information and Input on Grand Calumet River Dredging Proposal

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By Dennis Carey, Executive Director

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Shoreline of the Grand Calumet River in Gary where dredging is proposed.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

WARNINGS POSTED ON GRAND CALUMET

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Grand Calumet River warning sign at Hammond, Ind., to Lake Chicago, Ill.

Northwest Indiana Celebrates Environmental Victory As East Chicago Incinerator Closes Dec. 31, 1993

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By Dennis Carey, Executive Director

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The original applicant had long been given a license to build a new incinerator at the site.

Community Pollution Prevention

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By Dennis Carey, Executive Director

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A Pollution Prevention Manual for Business Owners

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GRAND CAL FUTURE VISION

In order to coordinate activities along the Grand Calumet River and Indiana Harbor Ship Canal such as the Anbridge/ Maes Park in Gary and the Hammond River Trail, the Grand Cal Task Force is working with the cities of East Chicago, Gary, and Hammond, In. as well as state and federal agencies and environmental advocates to initiate a River Corridor Vision Project.

We will ask citizens, business, property owners, and all interested parties to join together to create a future vision for the Grand Calumet River and Indiana Harbor Ship Canal.

This vision might include greenways, parks, bike and walking trails, environmental, historical, and cultural education, natural resource protection and preservation, as well as recommendations for riverfront land management practices and guidelines for future business and commercial development.

Many conservation and restoration projects on the Grand Calumet are already underway and in the planning stages. We will all benefit from creative thinking, coordination, and shared information.



Grand Calumet River Corridor at Anbridge/ Maes Park in Gary

What is our vision for the river and our communities today?

Grand Cal Task Force

The Grand Calumet River/Indiana Harbor Ship Canal Corridor Vision



2400 New York Avenue
Suite 301
Whiting, IN 46184

May 2000



CORRIDOR VISION & PLAN



*Grand Calumet River and
Indiana Harbor Ship Canal*



*A Renewed Resource
for a New Century*



Any planning effort that has a community impact needs community input. A strong, informed, engaged community is the foundation of successful planning and implementation.

The Grand Cal Task Force was a strong community advocate for the clean-up and restoration of the Grand Calumet River and surrounding communities. Whether it was protesting or promoting, the Grand Cal Task Force and its members and supporters kept the Grand Calumet River issues before the public and in the news, were informed and involved, and as a result, in many cases, better decisions were made for the protection of community health and the environment.

Dredging is Needed, but so is Public Oversight

By Lee Hottel, Great Lakes

This isn't a joke. April 1 was the deadline for public comments on a draft plan to dredge over a million cubic yards of sediment from the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal in a project that will take 50 years, cost over \$100 million and could provide a model for one of the worst Great Lakes problems.

The shipping channel has not been dredged since 1972 and a plume of contaminated sediments from the harbor reaches five miles out into Lake Michigan.

Now the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed a new plan for removing the sediments and disposing of them on the site formerly owned by the Energy Cooperative Industries.

Both the problem and the solution are complicated. This is why the Lake Michigan Federation, the Grand Cal Task Force, the Save the Dunes Council and the Great Lakes office of the Sierra Club have recruited a team of a dozen volunteer experts to review the Draft EIS.



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The Grand Cal Task Force was a unique local grassroots environmental organization that was truly representative in its board, staff and membership of the urban communities of the Calumet Region. It was the peoples' voice and organization and as a result of their energy and commitment their concerns were heard and acted on locally, state and nationwide.

Funding, training, partnerships, volunteers, and staff support were also a big help!

